

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for the indication of allowance of claims 17 and 18 and for the indication of allowability with respect to claims 7, 8, 25, and 26 at pages 16 and 17 of the Office Action. Claims 7, 8, 25, and 26 were objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants believe all of the pending claims are allowable over the cited references. Nevertheless, in the interest of advancing the application to allowance, Applicants hereby cancel claims 7 and 25 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend claims 1 and 19 to include all of the elements of claims 7 and 25, respectively. Specifically, with this response, claim 1 is amended to include all of the elements of claim 7, thereby rewriting claim 7 into independent form, and claim 19 is amended to include all of the elements of claim 25. Claims 8 and 26 are amended to include all of the elements of the independent claims 1 and 19, respectively.

All of the independent claims 1, 8, 17, 19, and 26 are in condition for allowance. Each of the new claims 35-46 correspond to one of the original dependent claims 2-6, 9-15, 20-24 and 27-34, rewritten to depend from amended claims 8 and 26. No new matter has been added.

Conclusion

The Office Action acknowledged at pages 16 and 17 that none of the cited references disclose or suggest the particular arrangement of elements of claims 17 and 18 or of claims 7, 8, 25, and 26. Accordingly, in light of the Amendments, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the objections and rejections, as well as an indication of the allowability of each of the pending claims 1-6, 8-24, and 26-46.

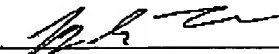
Any changes to the claims in this amendment, which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below if such a call would in any way facilitate allowance of this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-2469.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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